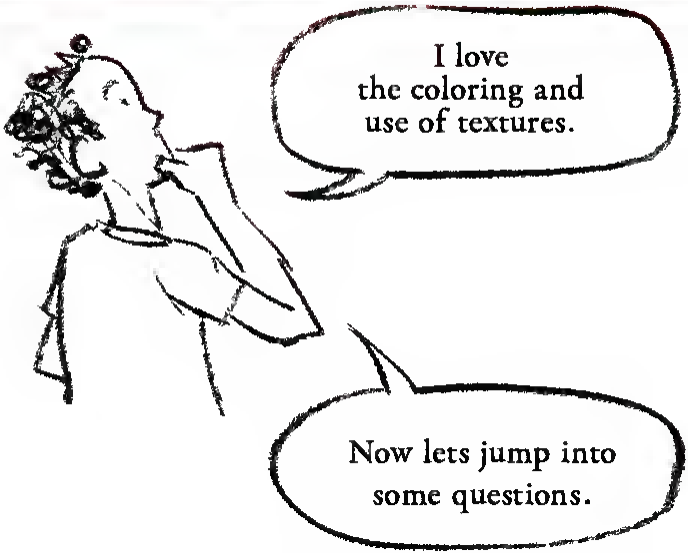
Q & A

Hi guys! And girls!
I'm Jason Brubaker
the creator of Sithrah.
Since Book 3
is complete I want
to take a week to
answer any questions
you might have and
show off some cool
fan art that I
received.
To start things off
here is a great piece of fan art by
Kevin Blanchard!

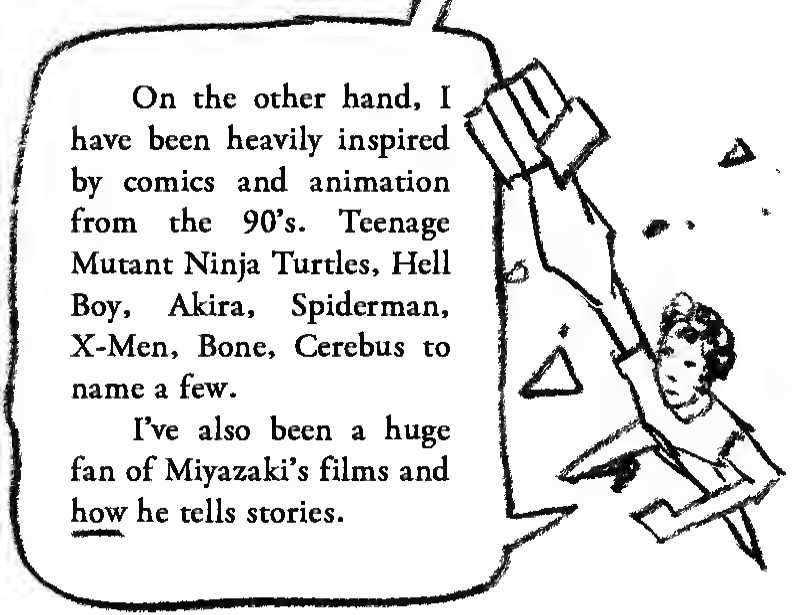

I love the coloring and use of textures.
Now lets jump into some questions.

@achaverry01 asked

"What inspired you to do this?"

Sithrah has drawn a lot of inspiration from my own life. I tend to write stories about things that I wrestle with spiritually.

For instance both Nirvana and Dino are wrestling with their faith. Both of these characters represent different moods, times or mindsets that I feel like I've had in the past.

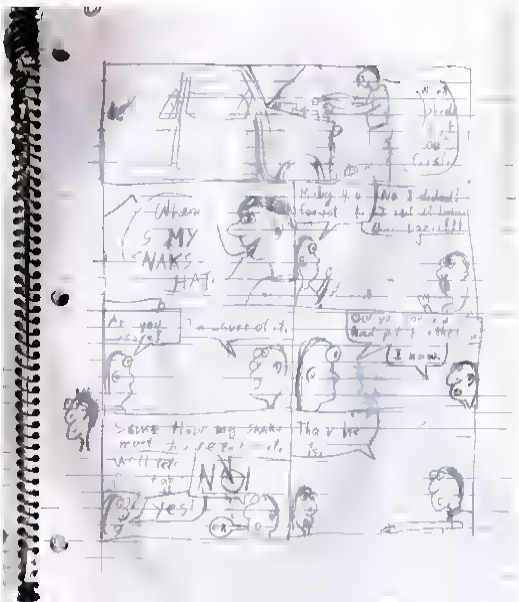

On the other hand, I have been heavily inspired by comics and animation from the 90's. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Hell Boy, Akira, Spiderman, X-Men, Bone, Cerebus to name a few.
I've also been a huge fan of Miyazaki's films and how he tells stories.

TheSamster asked:

"I really like this style of art. Have you always drawn this way?"

My style has slowly developed over time.

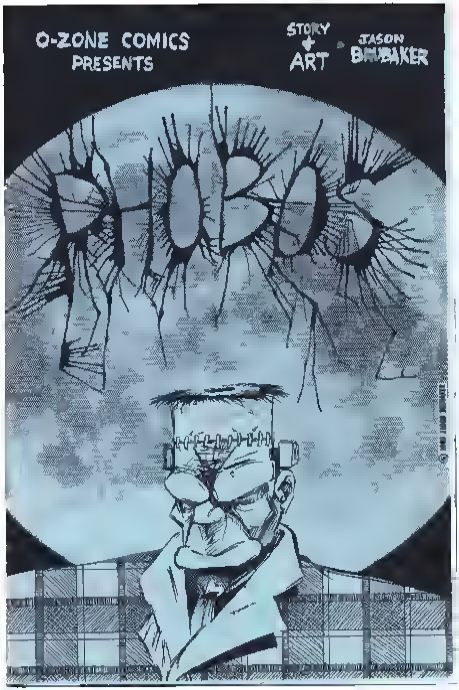
It definitely didn't happen overnight. Here is a comic page I drew in grade school.



I worked at it everyday and at age 11 I got a comic strip called Scruffy published in the local town paper. Here are some of them.

I THINK I'LL DIG UP MY BONE
I WONDER WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I KEEP ON DIGGING?
THIS SUPPLY OF BONES IS GOING TO LAST ME ALL WINTER!
SCRUFFY
I'M GOING TO LOOK AT THE WORLD OUTSIDE OF THIS FENCE!
LOOK OUT WORLD HERE I COME!
CRASH!
SCRUFFY
I SURE AM GOING TO GET ALOT OF MONEY OFF OF THESE TIN CANS.
SCRUFFY
I JUST LOVE FISH!!!
AND FISH JUST LOVE ME TOO
BY JASON BRUBAKER

Then in High School I drew my first comic called Phobos that I tried to sell. It looked like this.



I also tried my hand at tracing photos to produce photo real drawings. This was a self portrait.

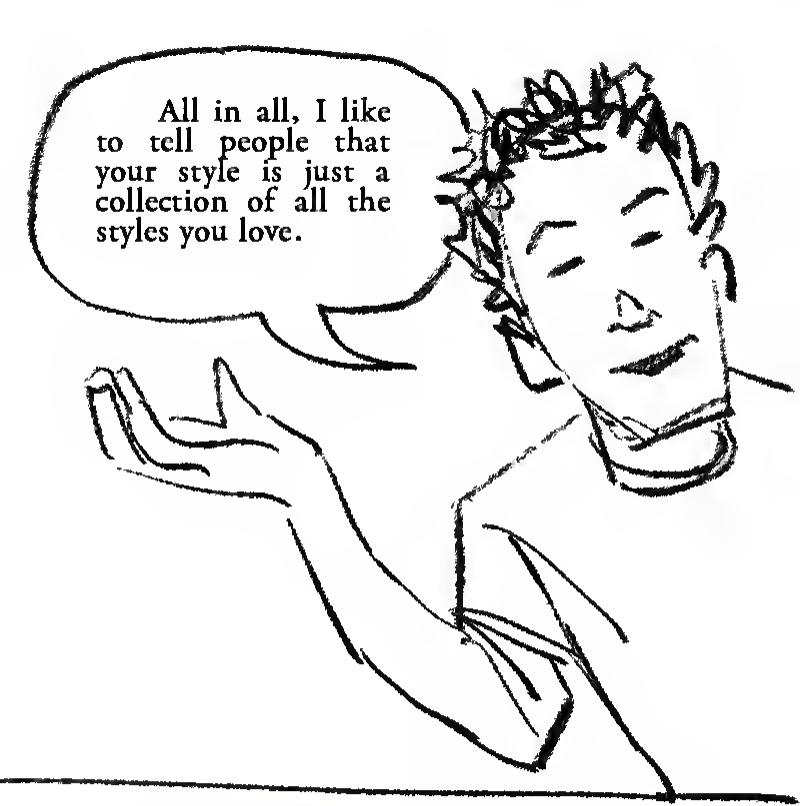
Eventually I moved to LA and started drawing storyboards for a living.

During that time I started learning to animate and I made a short film which I later adapted to be my first graphic novel reMIND.

Here is a still from the animation.

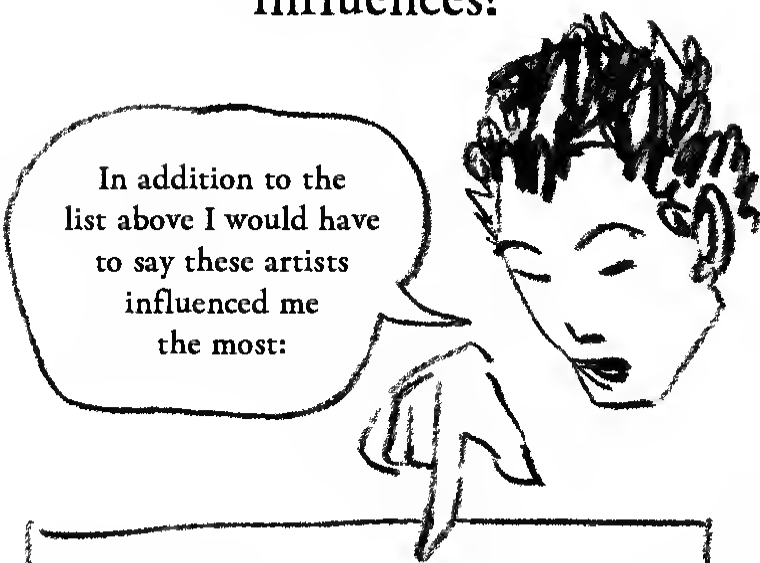
My style really became obvious when I made the graphic novel version of reMIND.

Here's what the books look like.



Alicy Sunberg asks:

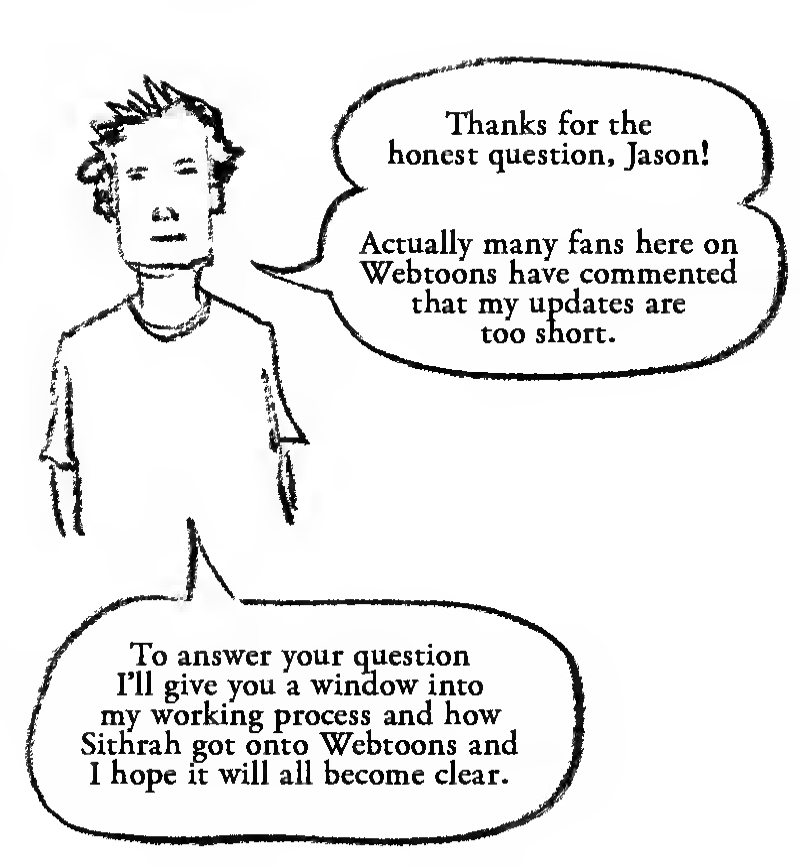
What are your artistic influences?



Bill Watterson - Calvin 'n Hobbs
Erik Larsen - Spider-man, Savage Dragon
Gary Larson - The Far Side
Sam Kieth - The Maxx & more
Todd MacFarlane - Spider-man
Eastman & Laird - TMNT
Chris Bachalo - All his stuff

jasonshire asked:

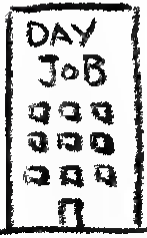
Hay I love what you're doing with the story and even more with the art...
but the chapters are really really short, I know I don't know your story or why you're doing them so short but no matter how short you make them you're doing a great job.


Thanks for the honest question, Jason!
Actually many fans here on Webtoons have commented that my updates are too short.
To answer your question I'll give you a window into my working process and how Sithrah got onto Webtoons and I hope it will all become clear.

Book 1

Sithrah started out as a book series.

It's currently going to be six books long to complete the story.



I finished the first book in my free time after work.

It took me about a year to complete the first book in the series.

After I published that first book (last year), Webtoons sent me an email asking if I would be a featured artist.

We signed an agreement and I started converting Sithrah book 1 into the long scrolling web format and immediately began full time production of book 2.

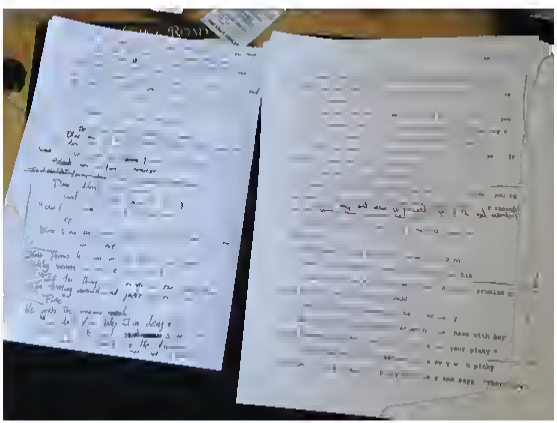
I'm pretty proud of the fact that I was able to complete a brand new Sithrah book that has about 145 pages in about 3.5 months.

Book 3 is shaping up to about 180 pages and I'll be able to complete it in about 4 months.

To give you a frame of reference, my first graphic novel reMIND took me 5 YEARS to complete and so 4 months is lightening speed if you ask me.

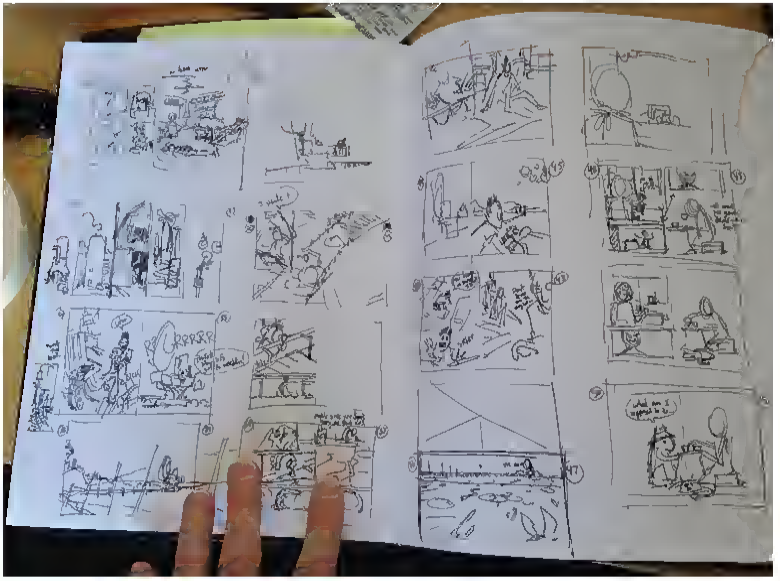
So what goes into making Sithrah?

First I write the script.

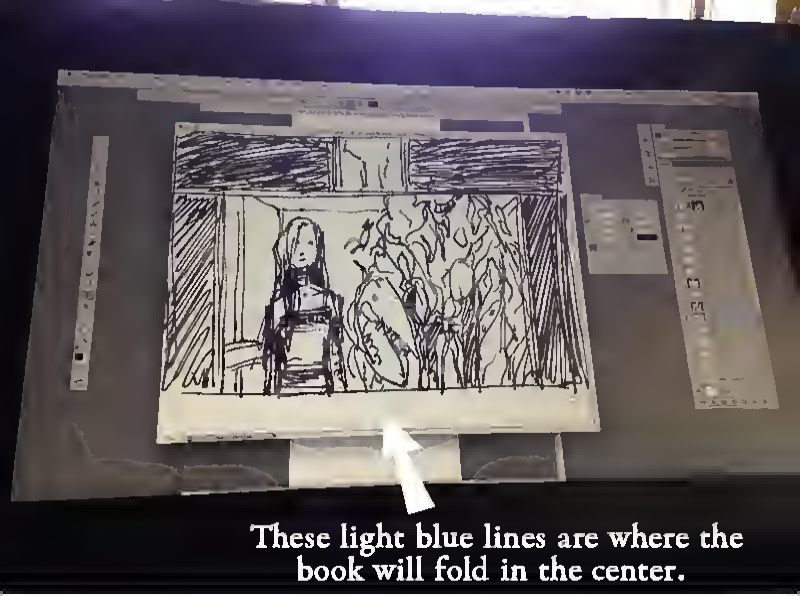


I like to make bullet point lists of everything that is important in the story. And I write some dialogue ideas.

Then I draw a bunch of thumbnails from my script and I think of them as spreads of an open book.



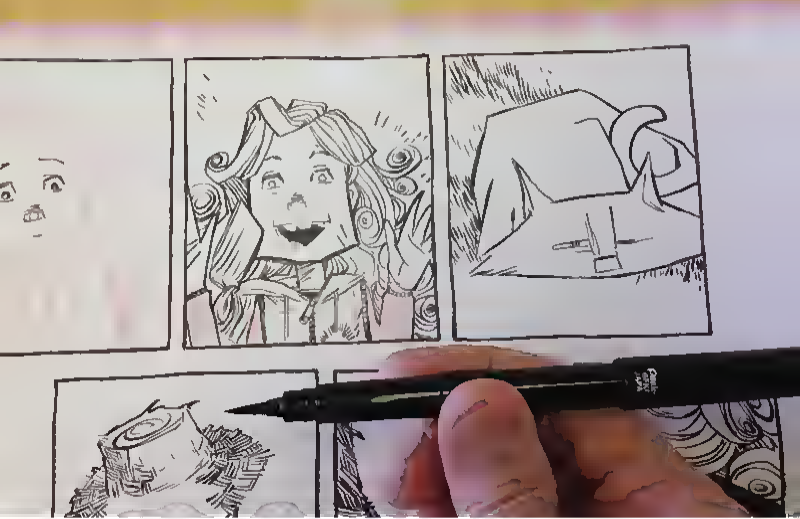
I scan all the thumbnails and pull them in Photoshop where I create all my spreads as if they were in a book.



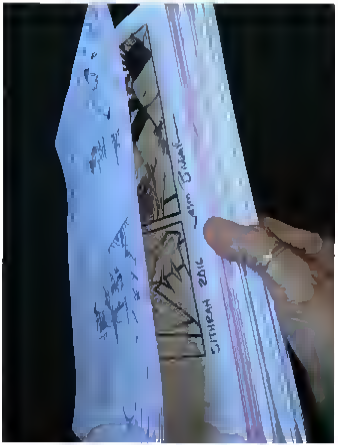
Then I use a Wacom Cintiq and Photoshop to sketch out the scenes in more detail.

Then I print out my sketched lines
on paper with a light orange or reddish color
and I use a Pentel Brush Pen to ink it all.

The inks are kinda organic looking
but I love how it turns out.

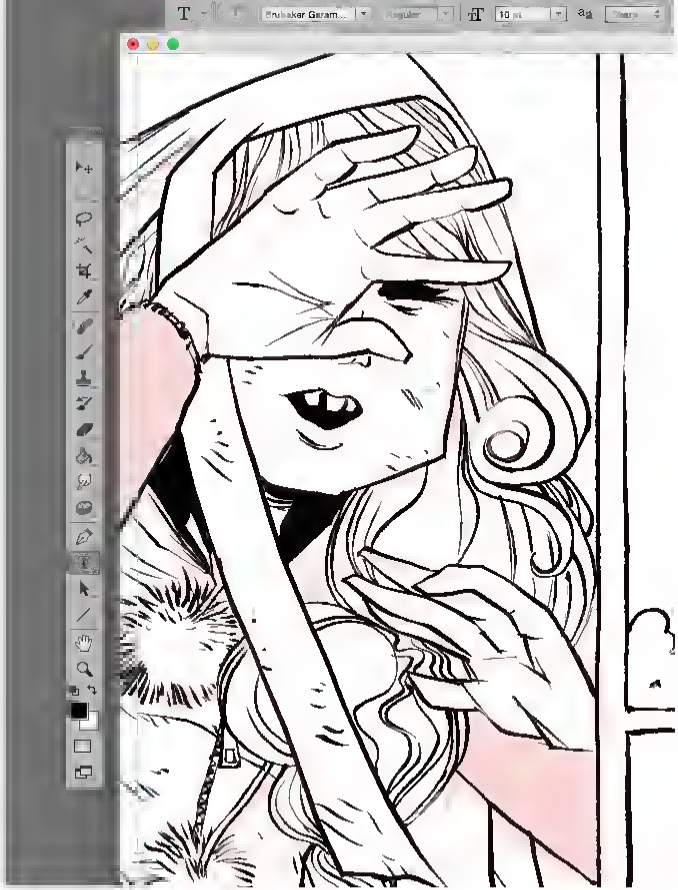


I now have hundreds of these pages.

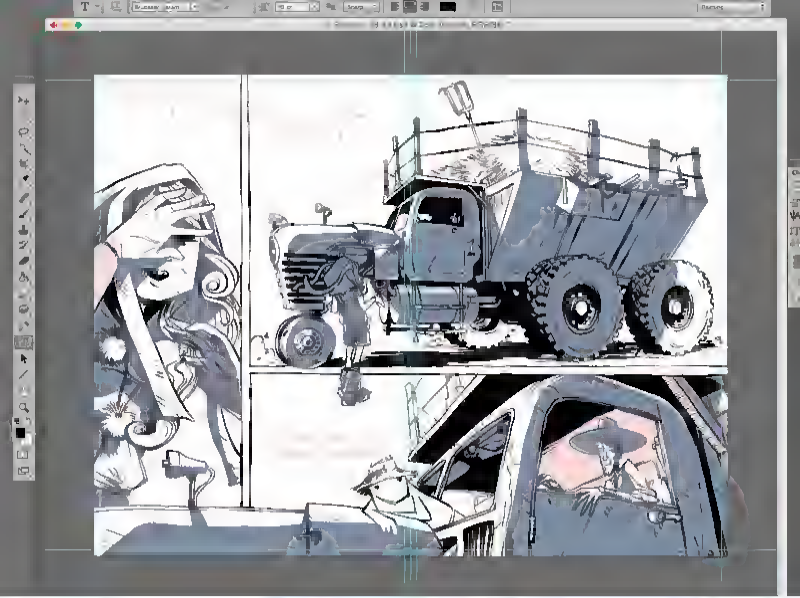


Hundreds! :)

I lay the ink layer over top of my sketches in Photoshop.



I paint in a shadow pass on everything.



During that same time I send my page spreads all inked to an assistant who does what they call "Flatting".

Flatting is preparation for coloring.
Above is what the flats look like when I
get them back.

Then I spend about 4 to 8 hours
coloring each spread until it looks like this.

THEN I hire another assistant to convert these book spreads into the long scrolling Webtoons format that you are familiar with.

Below are examples of how the finished spreads go from thumbnail to sketch to finished color.

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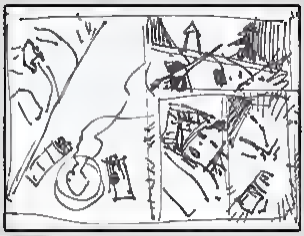
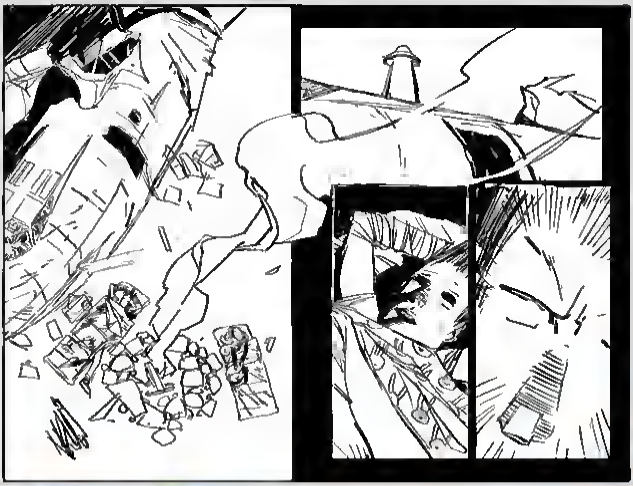
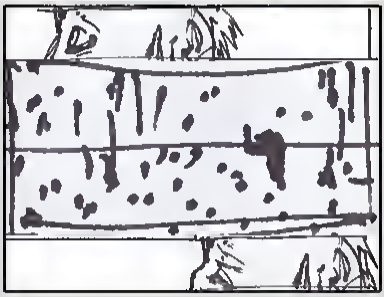
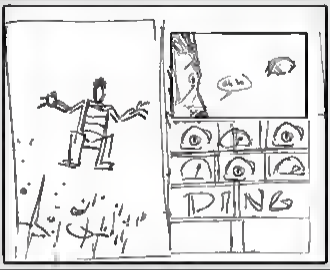
Pages 122-139
(Thumbnails, Sketch and Final)



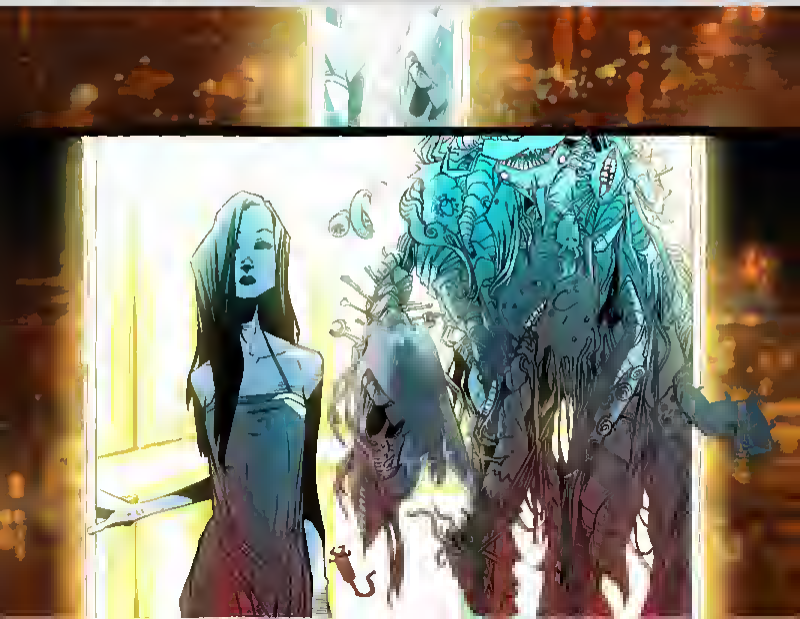




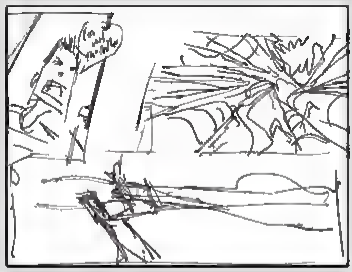

DING

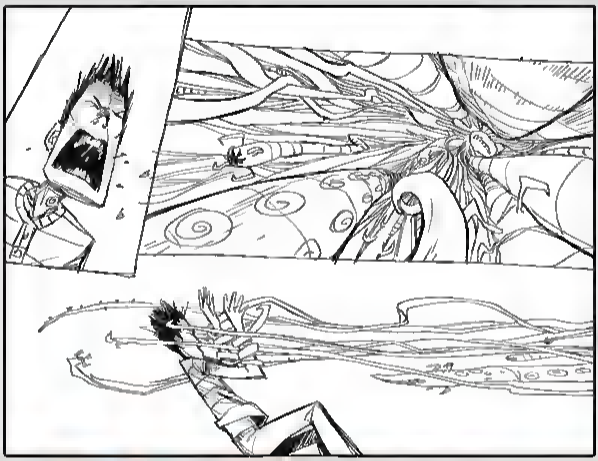
DING

I'm back in Light City? How?
I can't move!
TIK TICK TIC TIK TIK
Oh no!
DING

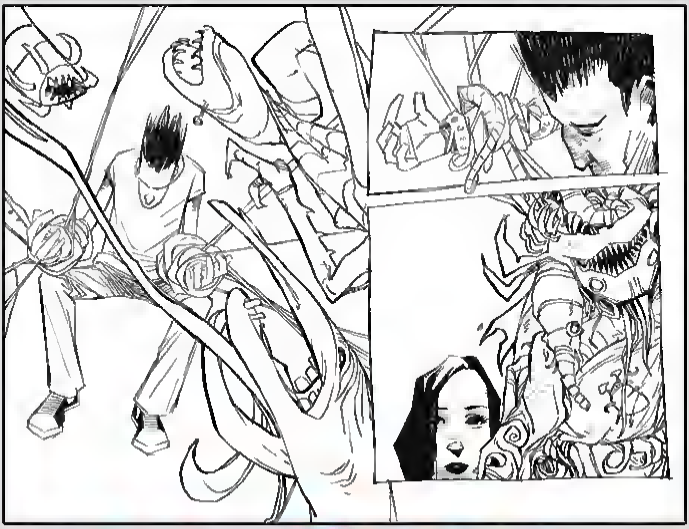


A dog will always return to its vomit, Dino.
It simply cannot be undone.
This is who you are
I am your root





You are NOT the Author!



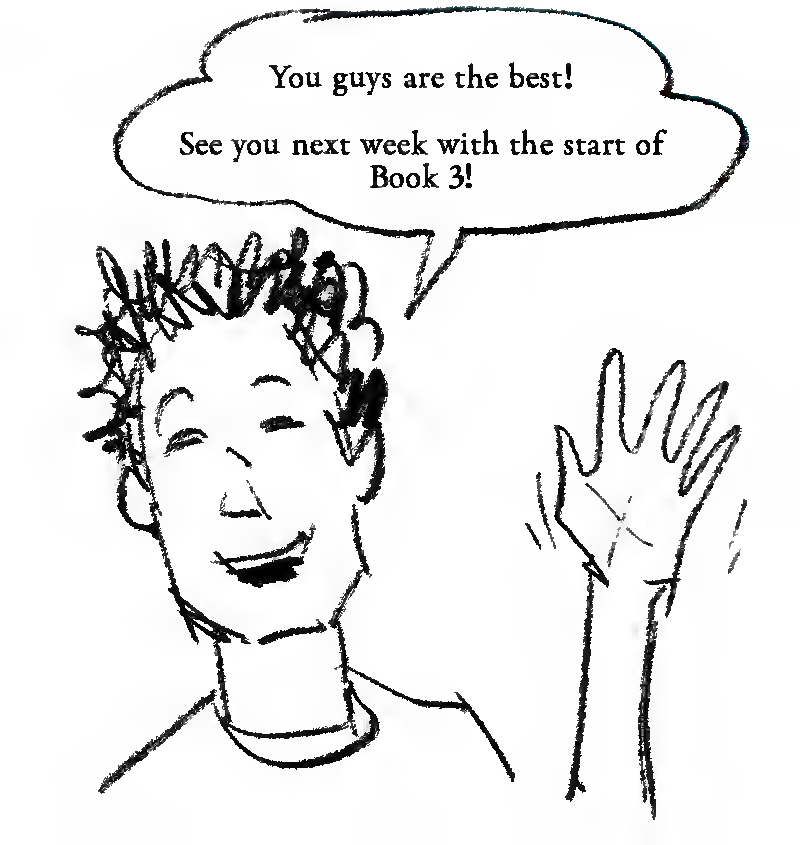
But I have read the... Author's material.
I have read your ending.
You cannot change what is written.
You cannot change who you are
What you were written for...
You are MY instrument of destruction!

You can see more of my production process if you become a Patron at http://Patreon.com/JasonBrubaker

So yeah. It does take a long time to make this art but I think the end result is worth the effort.
And I really appreciate all of you who are coming to read my comic on Webtoons every week!
And to wrap this up, lets look at some more fan art!

This one is by Jerj

Here is another by Derek Dahlberg


You guys are the best!
See you next week with the start of Book 3!

LINE Webtoon